

All QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT Reading Guide

EPIGRAPH

In your own words, summarize Remarque's *epigraph*. What purpose does it serve?

CHAPTER ONE (pg 1-18)

The novel starts out "at rest five miles behind the front." Describe the mood at this moment. What recent activities have led up to this moment? (This is part of the *exposition*.)

This chapter lays out main *characterization*. Describe the following:

Schoolmates:

Paul Baumer

Albert Kropp

Muller

Leer

Franz Kemmerich

Uneducated young enlisted men:

Tjaden

Haie Westhaus

Older enlisted men:

Stanislaus Katczinsky (Kat)

Detering

Schoolmaster:

Kantorek

What is so important about Kemmerich's boots? How are they a *symbol* to him? To the others?

CHAPTER TWO (pg 19-33)

This chapter introduces platoon leader Corporal Himmelstoss. Describe him.

What is the significance of the scene of Kemmerich's death? Why does the author go on in such detail about the event and Paul's response?

CHAPTER FOUR (pg 51-74)

This chapter describes one specific bombardment. Pick out three memorable details.

Portion of CHAPTER SEVEN (starting middle of pg 151-185)

Paul is allowed "home leave" to see his family. Now that Paul's become inured to life as a soldier, record a few examples of how he responds to being back "home." What differences does Remarque emphasize through this change in *setting*?

CHAPTER NINE (pg 199-229)

A focus of chapter 9 is Paul's ordeal in the shell-hole. Pick out three memorable details that make it so traumatic for Paul.

Now that Paul's back in the battlefield *setting*, how does his *characterization* continue to change?

CHAPTER ELEVEN (pg 271-291) and CHAPTER TWELVE (pg 293-296)

The war is in decline; the Germans are losing. Record specific details of what happens to two men from Paul's group during this *falling action*.

Ch. 12 is short, but read all the pages to the very end. What is different about the narrator's *diction* compared to the rest of the book? Explain the change in *point of view* on page 296.